

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of erecting ~~a utility poles~~ a pole comprising the steps of:

fabricating a plurality of tubular sections of utility poles each having at least a portion tapered;

the diameter of at least one of said plurality of tubular sections being larger than the diameter of another;

bringing the at least one of said plurality of tubular sections and the another of said plurality of tubular sections to a site for erection;

pulling the at least one and the another tubular sections together with an apparatus that provides short repeated pulling strokes prior to erecting the utility pole ~~without manually adjusting said apparatus between strikes~~; and

erecting the utility pole.

2. (currently amended) A method in accordance with ~~claim~~ claim 1 in which the step of pulling the tubular sections together comprises the steps of:

attaching at least one hydraulic cylinder having a piston rod to at least a first section of a the utility pole;

attaching a bracket to a second section of the utility pole;

connecting the piston rod of the cylinder to an arm;

connecting the arm to the bracket;

pulling the first and second sections together by activating the hydraulic cylinder to change the position of said arm; and

~~—resetting a position of said arm during one of an extension and retraction of said piston rod.~~

3. (original) A method in accordance with claim 2 further including the step of resetting said arm.

4. (original) A method in accordance with claim 3 in which the step of resetting includes the step of moving said arm away from a gripping member and dropping it onto the gripping member.

5. (currently amended) A method of pulling sections of a utility poles pole together prior to erecting the utility pole, comprising the steps of:

attaching an apparatus that provides short repeated pulling strokes to a first section;

attaching a bracket to a second section;

connecting the apparatus that provides repeated pulling strokes to the bracket, whereby the first and second sections are pulled together while the first and second sections are horizontal[;]

when the apparatus is performing a pulling stroke; and

resetting the apparatus ~~without manually adjusting said apparatus~~ between pulling strokes.

6. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 5 in which the step of pulling the ~~tubular~~ sections together comprises the steps of:

attaching at least one hydraulic cylinder having a piston rod to at least a first section of [a] the utility pole;

attaching [a] the bracket to [a] the second section of utility pole;

connecting the piston rod of the cylinder to an arm;

connecting the arm to the bracket;

pulling the first and second sections together by activating the hydraulic cylinder to change the position of said arm; ~~and~~

~~resetting a position of said arm during one of an extension and retraction of said piston rod.~~

7. (original) A method in accordance with claim 6 further including the step of resetting said arm.

8. (original) A method in accordance with claim 7 in which the step of resetting includes the step of moving said arm away from a gripping member and dropping it onto the gripping member.

9. (currently amended) A method of erecting a utility pole comprising the steps of:

fabricating tubular sections;

bringing the tubular sections to a site for erecting the ~~telephone~~ utility pole;

pulling the sections together with short repeated strokes by manually adjusting the position of a flexible member connecting a tug bracket and a pull arm; and

erecting the utility pole.

10. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 9 in which a first location on
the flexible member is attached to one tubular section at one end and has its other end a plurality
of other adapted to be connected at different locations on the flexible member include gripping
means for gripping a second tubular section.

11. (currently amended) Apparatus for pulling two at least partly tubular sections of a utility
poles pole together comprising:

a hydraulic pump;

at least one hydraulic cylinder having a piston connected to a first at least partly tubular
section and having a piston rod;

at least one bracket;

at least one movable connecting member arm;

said at least one movable connecting member arm being connected at one end location on
the one movable connecting member to a the piston rod of said at least one hydraulic cylinder and
at the other end any of a plurality of other locations on the movable connecting member to [the] said
at least one bracket whereby the sections may be pulled together;

said at least one bracket including means for fastening the at least one bracket to one of said
at least partly tubular sections .

12. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 11 in which at least one of said bracket and
~~arm~~ movable connecting member has a plurality of cam surfaces adapted to move the ~~tug arm~~ at
least one movable connecting member to a height where it can clear the ~~tug~~ bracket; ~~and a plurality~~

of said movable connecting member including at least one gripping means for connecting to said bracket on a retraction stroke of said hydraulic cylinder.

13. (currently amended) Apparatus for pulling two sections of a utility pole together comprising:

a hydraulic pump;

a hydraulic cylinder;

a tug bracket;

said tug bracket including means for fastening the tug bracket to one of said two sections;

a flexible member having one end connected to the tug bracket and the other end connected to a piston of the hydraulic cylinder;

the length of said flexible member between the piston and the tug bracket being adjustable, whereby on an extension stroke, the flexible member ~~is~~ can be adjusted and on a retraction stroke, the sections are pulled together.

14. (new) A method in accordance with claim 1 in which the step of pulling the at least one and the another tubular sections together comprises the steps of:

attaching at least one hydraulic cylinder having a piston rod to at least a first section of the utility pole;

attaching a bracket to a second section of the utility pole;

connecting the piston rod of the cylinder to a flexible member;

connecting the flexible member to the bracket; and

pulling the first and second sections together by activating the hydraulic cylinder to change the position of said flexible member.

15. (new) A method in accordance with claim 3 in which the step of resetting said arm comprises the step of resetting said arm without manually adjusting said apparatus between strokes.

16. (new) A method in accordance with claim 5 in which the step of resetting the apparatus comprises the step of automatically resetting a position with respect to said bracket of an arm that is connected to move with a piston rod during one of an extension and retraction of the piston rod between strokes without manually adjusting said apparatus .